

1. (currently amended) A method for restricting access to a set of physical resources in a distributed data processing system, the method comprising:

in response to receipt from a user of a request to access one of the set of physical resources, determining a set of authorized resources for which ~~a~~ the user is authorized to access, wherein the set of authorized resources is a subset of the set of physical resources;

obtaining, by an entitlement server, state information about the set of authorized resources;

evaluating availability of the set of authorized resources by the entitlement server comparing the state information about the set of authorized resources against a configurable rule associated with one or more resources in the set of authorized resources;

in response to evaluating availability of the set of authorized resources using the configurable rule, generating, by the entitlement server, a list of a set of entitled resources for the user, wherein the set of entitled resources is a subset of the set of authorized resources; and

preventing the user from accessing physical resources that are in the set of authorized resources but that are not in the set of entitled resources.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
sending an indication of the set of entitled resources to the user.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
responding to requests for the user to access the set of entitled resources.

4. (cancelled)

5. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
considering user attributes of the user while evaluating availability of the set of authorized resources.

6. (cancelled)

7. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
gathering state information for the set of resources using a distributed monitoring application.

8. (currently amended) An apparatus for restricting access to a set of physical resources in a distributed data processing system, the apparatus comprising:

a processor;

a computer memory holding computer program instructions which when executed by the processor perform a method comprising:

~~means for~~ in response to receipt from a user of a request to access one of the set of physical resources, determining a set of authorized resources for which ~~a~~ the user is authorized to access, wherein the set of authorized resources is a subset of the set of physical resources;

~~means for~~ obtaining state information about the set of authorized resources;

~~means for~~ evaluating availability of the set of authorized resources by comparing the state information about the set of authorized resources against a configurable rule associated with one or more resources in the set of authorized resources;

~~means for~~ generating a list of a set of entitled resources for the user in response to evaluating availability of the set of authorized resources, wherein the set of entitled resources is a subset of the set of authorized resources; and

~~means for~~ preventing the user from accessing physical resources that are in the set of authorized resources but that are not in the set of entitled resources.

9. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 8 ~~further comprising wherein the method further comprises:~~

~~means for~~ sending an indication of the set of entitled resources to the user.

10. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 8 ~~further comprising wherein the method further comprises:~~

~~means for~~ responding to requests for the user to access the set of entitled resources.

11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 8 ~~further comprising wherein the~~  
method further comprises:

~~means for~~ considering user attributes of the user while evaluating availability of the set of authorized resources.

13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 8 ~~further comprising wherein the~~  
method further comprises:

~~means for~~ gathering state information for the set of resources using a distributed monitoring application.

15. (currently amended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use in a distributed data processing system for restricting access to a set of physical resources, the computer program product holding computer program instructions which when executed by the distributed data processing system perform a method comprising:

~~means for~~ in response to receipt from a user of a request to access one of the set of physical resources, determining a set of authorized resources for which ~~a~~ the user is authorized to access, wherein the set of authorized resources is a subset of the set of physical resources;

~~means for~~ obtaining state information about the set of authorized resources;

~~means for~~ evaluating availability of the set of authorized resources by comparing the state information about the set of authorized resources against a configurable rule associated with one or more resources in the set of authorized resources; and

~~means for~~ generating a list of a set of entitled resources for the user in response to evaluating availability of the set of authorized resources, wherein the set of entitled resources is a subset of the set of authorized resources; and

~~means for~~ preventing the user from accessing physical resources that are in the set of authorized resources but that are not in the set of entitled resources.

16. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 15 ~~further comprising wherein the method further comprises:~~

~~means for~~ sending an indication of the set of entitled resources to the user.

17. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 15 ~~further comprising wherein the method further comprises:~~

~~means for~~ responding to requests for the user to access the set of entitled resources.

18. (cancelled)

19. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 15 ~~further comprising wherein the method further comprises:~~

~~means for~~ considering user attributes of the user while evaluating availability of the set of authorized resources.

20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 15 ~~further comprising wherein the method further comprises:~~

~~means for~~ gathering state information for the set of resources using a distributed monitoring application.

22. (previously presented) The method as described in claim 1 wherein the set of resources are identified by Uniform Resource Identifiers (URIs), and the step of preventing the user from accessing resources includes providing the user a web page without a URI for an authorized resource that is not also an entitled resource.

23. (previously presented) The method as described in claim 1 wherein the set of entitled resources for the user includes a particular authorized resource that the user is entitled to access as a result of the evaluating step and further as a result of a given user status being met, wherein the particular authorized resource, although included in the set of entitled resources for the user, is omitted from a list of entitled resources for another user that does not then have the given user status.

24. (currently amended) The apparatus as described in claim 8 wherein the set of resources are identified by Uniform Resource Identifiers (URIs), and the ~~means for~~ step of preventing the user from accessing resources includes ~~means for~~ providing the user a web page without a URI for an authorized resource that is not also an entitled resource.

25. (previously presented) The apparatus as described in claim 8 wherein the set of entitled resources for the user includes a particular authorized resource that the user is entitled to access as a result of the evaluation and further as a result of a given user status being met, wherein the particular authorized resource, although included in the set of entitled resources for the user, is omitted from a list of entitled resources for another user that does not then have the given user status.

26. (currently amended) The computer program product as described in claim 15 wherein the set of resources are identified by Uniform Resource Identifiers (URIs), and the ~~means for~~ step of preventing the user from accessing resources includes ~~means for~~ providing the user a web page without a URI for an authorized resource that is not also an entitled resource.

27. (previously presented) The computer program product as described in claim 15 wherein the set of entitled resources for the user includes a particular authorized resource that the user is entitled to access as a result of the evaluation and further as a result of a given user status being met, wherein the particular authorized resource, although included in the set of entitled resources for the user, is omitted from a list of entitled resources for another user that does not then have the given user status.